

REMARKS:

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-21 were rejected.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10 and 19-21 have been amended and new claims 22 and 23 have been added. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below. Thus, claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-21 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,351,764 (Voticky).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 as amended recite, “an electronic message delivery management server for managing delivery of the electronic messages”, where “the electronic message delivery management server distributes the electronic messages to said terminal, allows the individual electronic messages to be browsed by an user from said terminal upon the browsing request, sets the link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list, and registers the sender information in the permitted-sender list”.

Voticky uses a client system for prioritizing messages based on predetermined priority assigned to sources of the messages (see, col. 2, lines 2-9 and col. 3, line 61 through col. 4, line 6). In Voticky, identifiers of sources of messages expected to be received by the client system from a communications network is entered in a database provided to the client system (see, col. 4, lines 14-24), and a user of the client system assigns a priority code in relation to the messages expected to be received (see, col. 4, lines 55-62). Accordingly, incoming messages are sorted in accordance with the user predefined priority codes using a server and the user only views the prioritized information (see, col. 4, lines 3-6 and FIG. 4).

Voticky does not teach or suggest, “an electronic message delivery management server for managing the delivering of the electronic messages”, where “the electronic message delivery management server distributes the electronic messages to a terminal, allows the individual electronic messages to be browsed by an user from the terminal upon a browsing request, sets the link between sender information and a permitted-sender list, and registers the sender

information in the permitted-sender list", as recited in each of independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims depending from claims 1, 10 and 19 are also patentably distinguishable over Voticky. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 3, 12 and 21, the present invention executes "the notification [that an electronic message has been held in said message folder] at predetermined intervals" ("prescribed in claim 3).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-21 is overcome.

III. NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 22 and 23 are added to recite a method and apparatus for delivering electronic messages, including "categorizing the electronic message in accordance with stored sender information upon receipt of the electronic message by a server", "automatically transmitting a notification related to the categorized electronic message to a terminal, and enabling a user of the terminal to link sender data of the categorized electronic mail to the stored sender information while browsing contents of the electronic message".

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 22 and 23 is patentably distinguishable over Voticky.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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